

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20 IO-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SSO-00 RSR-01 /140 W

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R 181110 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1847

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8774

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-18 MAY 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA MAY 18
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE BEIN HOA 0131

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 3 REMAINED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL DURING THE 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS 18 MAY. THERE WERE 11 COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF TWO ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), FIVE GROUND CONTACTS, TWO SNIPINGS, AND TWO MINE INCIDENTS. TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD WERE 12 FRIENDLY WOUNDED AND SEVEN COMMUNISTS KILLED. TON LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP, TAY NINH PROVINCE, RECEIVED 45 ROUNDS OF 61 MM AND 82 MM MORTAR FIRE. NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE WERE REPORTED. MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORTED OCCURRED AT 1100 HOURS 17 MAY WHEN A PATROL OF THE 312 TH RF COMPANY, AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNIST SNIPER FIRE, ENGAGED A SMALL SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE 6 KMS SOUTHWEST OF AN LOC CITY, BINH LONG PROVINCE, RESULTING IN THREE FRIENDLY WOUNDED AND THREE COMMUNISTS KILLED. MINOR COMMUNIST INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN BINH DUONG, BINH LONG, HAU NGHIA, GIA DINH AND BIEN HOA PROVINCES. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN REMAINDER OF MR 3 DURING REPORTING PERIOD.

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2. DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF DO DANG TIEN OF HAU NGHIA, SAYS THE COMMUNISTS IN CU CHI DISTRICT ARE ASKING THE PEOPLE NOT TO VOTE IN THE VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS. IN DUC HOA DISTRICT THE COMMUNISTS ARE ALLEGEDLY ASKING THE PEOPLE NOT TO JOIN THE DEMOCRACY PARTY.

3. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE HAU NGHIA PROVINCE COUNCIL, THE HAU NGHIA PROVINCE CHIEF IS IN SERIOUS DANGER OF BEING DISCOVERED IN AN EMBEZZLEMENT OF MILLIONS OF PIASTERS. GENERAL MINH, MR 3 COMMANDER, TOLD THE CONGEN THAT TWO PEOPLE ARE ALREADY IN JAIL ON CHARGES LEADING OUT OF THE EMBEZZLEMENT OF HAU NGHIA PROVINCE FUNDS. MINH ALSO SAID THAT HE HAS REQUESTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TO INITIATE A THIRD INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT. MINH SPECULATED THAT THE HAU NGHIA PROVINCE CHIEF MIGHT BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE EMBEZZLEMENT.

4. COLONEL MORROW, CHIEF CANDEL ICCS REGION V, TOLD POLOFF THAT AN LOC ICCS TEAM OBSERVED TWO B-52 BOMBERS FLYING FROM WEST TO EAST, NORTH OF THE TEAMS LOCATION IN AN LOC. THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO REGION V HEADQUARTERS, AND THEN TO SAIGON.

5. THERE ARE CONTRADICTORY REPORTS ABOUT COMMUNIST SUPPLY MOVEMENTS ON ROUTES 14 AND 15 IN BINH DUONG. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, THE 46 TH REGIMENT OF THE 25 TH ARVN DIVISION ENTERED THE HO BO AREA IN EARLY MAY 1973 AND DISRUPTED ENEMY SUPPLY ROUTES THERE. ANOTHER REPORT HAS THE MOVEMENT OF GMC TRUCKS, JEEPS, AND SOVIET MOLATOVA TRUCKS CONTINUING. THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES USING THE NORTH- SOUTH ROAD JUST WEST OF THE DUC HUE-- CAMBODIA BOUNDARY IS THOUGHT TO BE AS HEAVY AS IT WAS IN APRIL. SIGNED WALKINSHAW QUNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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